

CLAIMS

1. A telecommunications services apparatus for use with a mobile telecommunications network, the apparatus comprising means for receiving a MAP Send Routing Information for Short Message (SRI\_SM message) originating from another network and operable to forward the SRI\_SM message to a home location register, means for receiving a response from the home location register to the SRI\_SM message, means for temporarily storing information relating to the SRI\_SM response and operable to pass said response on to a network address identified as the originating address, means for receiving a MAP Mobile Terminated Forward Short Message (MT\_Fwd\_SM message) from said another network and operable to correlate the MT\_Fwd\_SM message with a previously-sent SRI\_SM response using stored information, the apparatus being operable to detect and selectively reject MT\_Fwd\_SM messages for which there is at least insufficient correlation between the MT\_Fwd\_SM message and the previously-sent SRI\_SM response, and to pass other MT\_Fwd\_SM messages on to their respective destinations.
2. Apparatus according to claim 1, including means for modifying IMSI information in the SRI\_SM response.
3. Apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said means for temporarily storing information is operable to store information relating to said modified SRI\_SM response and operable to pass said modified response on to the originating address network.
4. Apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the correlation determination is made between the MT\_Fwd\_SM message and a previously-sent modified SRI\_SM response.

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5. Apparatus according to claim 2, claim 3 or claim 4, wherein the IMSI modifying means is operable to replace the visitor location register address in the SRI\_SM response, the means for temporarily storing information is operable additionally to store the original visitor location register address, and the destination address is replaced by the stored original visitor location register address before being passed on to the respective destination.

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6. A telecommunications services method for use with a mobile telecommunications network, the method comprising receiving a MAP Send Routing Information for Short Message (SRI\_SM message) originating from another network and forwarding the SRI\_SM message to a home location register, receiving a response from the home location register to the SRI\_SM message, temporarily storing information relating to the SRI\_SM response and passing said response on to a network address identified as the originating address, receiving a MAP Mobile Terminated Forward Short Message (MT\_Fwd\_SM message) from said another network and correlating the MT\_Fwd\_SM message with a previously-sent SRI\_SM response using stored information, detecting and selectively rejecting MT\_Fwd\_SM messages for which there is at least insufficient correlation between the MT\_Fwd\_SM message and the previously-sent SRI\_SM response, and passing other MT\_Fwd\_SM messages on to their respective destinations.

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7. A method according to claim 1, including modifying IMSI information in the SRI\_SM response.

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8. A method according to claim 7, wherein said step of temporarily storing information is operable to store information relating to said modified SRI\_SM response and operable to pass said modified response on to the originating address network.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein the correlation determination is made between the MT\_Fwd\_SM message and a previously-sent modified SRI\_SM response.
- 5 10. A method according to claim 7, claim 8 or claim 9, wherein the IMSI modifying step is operable to replace the visitor location register address in the SRI\_SM response, the step of temporarily storing information is operable additionally to store the original visitor location register address, and the destination address is replaced by the stored original visitor location register address before being passed on to the respective destination.
- 10 11. A computer program for implementing a method according to any one of claims 6 to 10.
- 15 12. A storage medium storing a computer program according to claim 11.